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PREMIER STROUGAL ADDRESSES AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES CONGRESS

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[Text of speech by Lubomir Strougal, CSSR federal premier and member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, at the ninth congress of the unified agricultural cooperatives in the Congressional Hall of the Julius Fucik Park of Rest and Culture in Prague]

[Text] Men and women congress delegates, esteemed guests: The representatives of a new social class--that of the farmers--are now for the ninth time meeting at their congress to assess the results achieved by our socialist agriculture in the last few years and to discuss ways of further developing agriculture and how to turn their experiences into new and creative actions. There is no denying that we have done much work and achieved many significant successes which alone are a telling testimony and of which we are justly proud. I am therefore pleased that I can sincerely greet all of you--all participants in this important meeting and the Czechoslovak farmers--on behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee and its general secretary and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the head of the delegation of the party, the Federal Assembly, the National Front and the Government, Comrade Gustav Husak. At the same time I would like to convey to you sincere greetings from the Federal Government and the governments of the Czech and the Slovak Socialist Republics. Allow me also to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your good work and for the great work which has been achieved by our socialist agriculture in the last 30 years by all of you--farmers, workers on state farms, organizations of agriculture services, scientists, engineers, workers, men and women, and our youth.

We are deeply aware of the fact that the progress we have achieved in the development of our entire society, in all its spheres including agriculture, is based on the purposeful policy of the CPCZ, on the activity of party bodies and organizations, the entire National Front, other political parties, the national committees and state and social organizations. It has been above all the period since April 1969, since the coming of the new party leadership headed by that significant representative of our and the international workers movement, experienced statesman and loyal internationalist Comrade Gustav Husak, which has proved beyond doubt what it means both in life and policy to develop the tested principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, to have a firm party leadership determined to defend these principles and to implement them in reality. The coming of the new party leadership not only brought about a complete defeat of the counterrevolution and the rightist forces in the party and society but it also led to the results we have achieved in the all-round development of the country and in the growth of the material and cultural standards of our people.

It is precisely in this decade that the class bond of the workers and farmers has been greatly strengthened--this unshakable basis of our socialist state. It is precisely in this period that the advantages of large-scale socialist agricultural production have been developed and utilized better than ever. This was also confirmed by the recent session of the CPCZ Central Committee.

Starting with a general analysis of the fulfillment of the conclusions of the 15th congress, the session laid down new and demanding tasks and directions for the further development of Czechoslovak agriculture. I believe that this ninth congress of the unified agricultural cooperatives will adopt the conclusions of the above-mentioned session of the CPCZ since they represent well-justified requirements--our further joint work. The questions of agriculture and food now affect practically everyone, every person living in this country.

Your problems and concerns interest the majority of our citizens. We all know that this has not always been the case. There used to be a time when the harvest and the results of the entire work, or rather the results of dreadfully hard work, were of interest only to the circles closest to the farmer and to those who were directly dependent on him. At that time everything was an entirely private affair: the sweat, the harvest failure, poverty and hardship. Where should we look for the roots of this truly revolutionary change? What are the reasons for today's broad interest in your work in the villages? This is above all an expression of the new attitude of the people to public and social affairs. It reflects the feeling of a good housekeeper, including his concerns about the total results of our work, and his shared responsibility for this work. This is a new, sometimes still underrated phenomenon, which was created and is still developing in the process of socialist construction.

If this pehnomenon is a specific characteristic of socialist society--and this is so because it derives from the very nature of our society--then the second reason for the present broad interest in the results of your work is of a more general character. It stems from the fact that people are aware of the extraordinary growth of the importance of securing a sufficient volume of foodstuffs, not only at the level of our state but literally on a global scale. These are the fundamental reasons which in the case of many people lead to an active endeavor to make their own contribution to further progress.

The results achieved by Czechoslovak socialist agriculture not only demonstrate the great possibilities for its further development but they represent above all convincing and visible proof of the correctness of the path begun by our farmers 30 years ago under the leadership of the CPCZ. Then the nascent society was faced with a historical question posed by experience hitherto: to have fragmented small-scale agricultural production or socialist large-scale agricultural production? There was only one answer, and yet what a profound conflict in the thinking, activity, and the way of life and work of the farmer it meant. The point was that this question and the answer to it epitomized the watershed between two historical chapters in the development of our country. Thirty years ago, this question was answered at the Ninth Congress of the CPCZ by the memorable Comrade Klement Gottwald when he said the historical words that in our country there would be no socialism without the transition of the village to socialism. Through these words he appreciated very highly the importance of the bond between the working class and the small and middle farmer in the process of their gradual participation in the agricultural producer cooperatives and in modern large-scale socialist production in agriculture. It was the ninth congress of the

party that answered the question: What is to be done next in the development of agriculture and the village in our country? Experience has confirmed that it was a timely and very correct answer.

A program of extensive socioeconomic, political and cultural changes of a strategic importance has thus become a part of the general line of the construction of socialism. The point was not only to change the material conditions of life and work of the farmer; much more, very much more was at stake: to change the way of thinking, to change the mentality of a private owner, and to create prerequisites--in the words of Friedrich Engels--for the liberation of the people from the chains forged by the historical past which can be removed only when the contradictions between town and village are removed.

In order to fulfill this extremely complex and entirely new task, we utilized vast experiences and findings. It was the theoretical basis of the socialist transformation of agriculture in the form of Lenin's cooperative plan. And there were also the practical experiences of the first country of socialism--the Soviet Union--from its collectivization and the activity of its kolkhoz agriculture. In this context it is necessary to appreciate Gottwald's leadership of the party and state, and to pay tribute to it for the skillful application of this theoretical heritage and practical Soviet experiences. The point was to implement the Leninist idea in the context of a relatively advanced industrial country--a country where there was a long tradition of agricultural cooperatives. Of course, in the conditions of capitalism, these were misused against the interests of the small and middle farmers. Individual private husbandry of the land has become deep-rooted over the course of many generations. For long centuries, the land was, for the majority of the village population, not always adequate, but nontheless the only source of livelihood.

Thus in the subconscious of smallholders and medium-size farmers the conviction became embedded that the ownership of the land and individual farming also guarantee the basic securities of life. The economic crisis in the capitalist republic, the impoverishment of smallholders and medium-size farmers, the poverty and hunger of the broad stratas of the working people tied the farmer even closer to his own or rented land.

The communist party was also conscious of the fact that the reactionary forces, defeated in February 1948, and the class enemies in the towns, the countryside and at home and abroad, would not be deterred from using every possible means to thwart this effort and to frustrate the socialist reconstruction of the countryside. All of us who went through this experience know that the process of putting our agricultural sector on a cooperative basis was an extremely complicated stage in the effort to transform our country on a socialist basis. We had to fight against ignorance, old habits and the activity of our opponents and enemies. We had to explain things patiently and use persuasion, overcome the initial mistrust of an innovation, and do these things at a stage when the farmer, a very practical man, had not yet had an immediate and full opportunity to get used to things and convince himself with his own eyes of their advantages.

I think that today we can only smile at those various conflicts we went through when setting up cooperatives, as well as at the tears that were shed when boundaries between individual fields were plowed and when cows were taken to the jointly owned cowsheds. And how uncertain were the first steps of the newly established cooperatives, when we were gaining the first experiences from the management of a larger working collective--the newly-formed large-scale farm unit.

Nonetheless, we managed to get on top of everything through our joint effort and through the same common endeavor we managed to learn everything necessary. We can therefore say that the good cause has prevailed.

The general line of the party, the line of the transition of the countryside to socialism, triumphed. It triumphed because the working class and the intelligentsia, dedicated to socialism, put their full weight behind it. It triumphed because among the smallholders and medium-size farmers tens of thousands of enthusiasts were found who understood and marched in the front ranks.

It triumphed because in this historic struggle, a qualitatively new class bond was forged between workers and farmers, a bond based on the identity of basic interests, a bond that has become a pillar on our path to socialism. It triumphed because the whole party, all communists, and the whole national front regarded the whole matter of the reconstruction of the agricultural sector as their very own and devoted their best capabilities and strength to it. This is why we triumphed, comrades.

Today, the occasion of the opening of the ninth congress, 30 years after the first cooperatives were set up, it is our big duty to thank, on behalf of the party's Central Committee and the government, from the bottom of our hearts, all farmers, workers, village teachers, officials of the national committees, communist and nonparty members who stood at the head of the struggle to accomplish the great project of the socialist reconstruction of the countryside.

I would like to thank especially sincerely village women, who have always carried on their shoulders the overwhleming burden of farm life and work. And there were not a few of those who publicly or within the close circles of their families argued in favor of the changes, who understood that their fate of far too heavy and exhausting work, bent backs, work-hardened hands and faces worn out through worry need not and indeed should not last forever. In many cases it was their very decision which tipped the scale of social progress. With profound respect and gratitude we pay tribute to their bravery and courage in opposing the century-old order and in embarking on a new path--a path of building unified agricultural cooperatives, the basis of the new life in our countryside.

Along this long path there also stands a number of memorials to our fellow combatants, courageous pioneers of the cooperative idea, built as a tribute to those whom our enemies did not allow to see our life today. Many of those who stood at the head of the newly formed cooperatives and who have left our

ranks over the past 30 years are no longer among us. From this high Presidium of the ninth congress of unified agricultural cooperatives we pay our homage to all those who were present at the birth of our new socialist countryside and who have not lived to see our life today.

The placing of our agricultural sector on the cooperative basis and the victory of relations of socialist production has made it possible to build a modern, effective agricultural sector and a new countryside. It is new not only in its image but also in the way of life, relations between people, and their thinking and behavior. In place of 1.5 million small holdings which were farmed on 33 million individual pieces of land, our agricultural sector is represented today by 1,779 unified agricultural cooperatives with an average size of 2,426 hectares, and 162 state farms, each of which farms on 8,700 hectares of land. These are augmented by other state stock-breeding and seed-cultivation undertakings, which possess around 470,000 hectares of farmland.

The material and technological base of the agricultural sector, too, has changed incomparably. If we ignore the most essential thing, the internal structure and output of the fixed assets, then the value of the material and technological base per worker has increased almost tenfold. Thirty years ago, there was one tractor--which, understandably was much less powerful--per 280 hectares, while today the figure is 49. In 1951, we had less than 400 old threshing machines, while today we possess almost 20,000 and these naturally are much improved and more powerful.

Agricultural output has almost doubled in comparison with the level achieved in 1949 and this despite the fact that the amount of farmland has declined by more than 7 percent and the number of workers by more than a half. This means that labor productivity has increased substantially. If at that time one worker produced agricultural produce for 5.5 inhabitants, today he does it for 17 inhabitants.

We have achieved an important success above all in the production of cereals. Their yields per hectare have grown in comparison with the old standards nearly two and a half times. Animal production, too, has made rapid progress and, by the same comparison, it also has grown two and a half times. The greatest and deepest change, however, has been experienced by the farmers themselves. They have learned how to manage large-scale enterprises, they have mastered new technology and the findings of modern agricultural science, and they are absorbing new elements of an organization of production which in many ways is industrial. The old marked difference between the town and the village has disappeared. The high living standards and the growth of education and culture have become a matter of course. We have educated numerous cadres of specialists with high professional qualifications which continue to improve. The levels of rewards in the united agricultural cooperatives are reaching the levels of comparable wages received by the workers in other branches of the national economy. Now there are no longer differences in the care for mother and child, in sickness insurance, and steps are being taken for the standardization of old-age pensions for cooperative farmers and other working people. Our village has undergone significant

Changes. In the past 30 years, more than 80 percent of the housing stock has been either newly constructed or completely modernized. The standards of village household equipment are very high. You know well how many cultural, schooling, medical, shopping and other facilities we have built in the villages. You know how public catering has improved, for example, and how care for children, including those of preschool age, is also improving.

We can therefore say that poverty, social and life uncertainties, the fear of old age, and, naturally, the incredibly acute social differences of the recent past, have forever disappeared from our villages. Thirty years was enough to eliminate from our vocabulary such expressions as: begging for breadcrumbs, village poorhouse, stable-hand, maidservant, or general hand. The position and the thinking of the cooperative farmer has fundamentally changed, and the same goes for his working conditions, his recreation, and the entire way of life in the villages in general. This reflects the consistent care of our entire socialist society. Together with the cooperative farmers' own work, through which they are contributing to progress throughout society, it is socialism which makes possible their rich and happy life and which creates firm social and life securities for today and tomorrow.

The crisis-ridden years and the years which followed, when the farmers stood firmly on the positions of the principled policy of the CPCZ, have fully proven that the working class has a loyal ally in cooperative farmers.

Comrades delegates: We have every reason to look with satisfaction and justifiable pride at the past years of the socialist reconstruction of our agriculture. The ninth congress of the unified agricultural cooperatives can, therefore, base its work on all this. It can base it on all these results since they provide a reliable departure point for new and demanding tasks, and for a new development of socialist agriculture and our village.

A great help in your deliberations are the conclusions of the recent session of the party's Central Committee, the report of its Presidium delivered by Comrade Jakes, the speech made at that meeting by Comrade Husak, general secretary of the party and president of the republic, and the resolutions adopted, which set out immediate tasks for this year and next year and outline the long-term orientation in the development of our agriculture for the eighties.

The ninth congress was preceded by a wide-ranging democratic discussion, full of ideas, in which everyone had the opportunity to voice his or her views, make observations and submit proposals for the future course of action. We can state with satisfaction that the overwhelming proportion of these proposals were aimed at securing the planned tasks in the remaining years of the current 5-year plan, raising output and its utilization and pinpointing potentials of all kinds. This best shows the attitude of members to joint farming and at the same time is an important contribution to the fulfillment of tasks that are facing us.

In keeping with the basic objective of the policy of the CPCZ, which is to better and better satisfy the material and spiritual needs of the population, we place great demands on securing the food to satisfy the nutritional needs of our people. Requirements are growing and it is becoming more and more difficult to meet them. And this is not merely our own specific problem. In the present-day world, these very questions rank among the most urgent. Hundreds of millions of people are suffering from malnutrition and are living at starvation level. Even today it is quite obvious that strains in the world food market will not decline during the next two decades but, on the contrary, will further increase. This stems above all from the way in which the capitalist system manages foodstuffs and handles the sources of their production as well as from the justifiable endeavor of the developing countries to liquidate their inherited backwardness.

All these facts merely confirm the correctness and farsightedness of the conclusions of the 15th party congress on the necessity of gradually achieving self-sufficiency in the production of cereals and foodstuffs in the temperate zone.

During the past few years we have attained the level of the most advanced countries as far as the overall level of food consumption is concerned. This is a fact which pleases us. On the other hand, this cannot satisfy us just by itself. We know that not everything is quite in order with regard to the structure of the production of foodstuffs, that we still do not meet in every respect the given demands of the population, and that in our country there is an excessive consumption of sugar, fats, flour and flour-based products.

In keeping with the demands of healthy and rational nutrituion, we must strive in the future to increase the consumption of milk and dairy produce. This is to be raised by 1985 by 27 kilograms per person, thus reaching the level of 250 kilograms. With regard to meat, its consumption will increase by 7 kilograms per person and will reach the minimum level of 90 kilograms. Consumption of vegetables per capita should increase by 20 kilograms against the current level, and fruit by more than one-third by 1985. Against this, the consumption of flour ought to decline by 20 percent and sugar by between 5 and 6 percent. These, briefly speaking, are our main intentions in providing nutrituion for our population in the eighties. They are also a factor determining the basic orientation and tasks in the further development of agricultural production and the food industry, as set out by the 15th party congress and the recent session of the party's Central Committee.

It is obvious that the most demanding task will be that of increasing the output of foodstuffs of livestock origin, especially of meat and meat-based products in the required structure and quality and this from our own resources, and I underline the fact that it must be from our own resources.

If we are to successfully master securing the feeding of our people, then cattle-breeding must be seen as the foremost task, and it is necessary to develop in a comprehensive way this fundamental branch of animal production. The inevitability of such an orientation is the result not only of necessity--

the ever-growing consumption of meat and milk--but also of the fact that cattle-breeding creates a number of prerequisites for the implementation of an intensive system of operations in the village. After all, this is a branch where we have the greatest volume of potential which can be mobilized. Cattle are the decisive consumers of bulk fodder, including the secondary products of plant production, such as straw. Their feeding, as distinct from the intensive feeding of pigs and poultry, is based fundamentally on domestic resources of fodder, and, in addition, with milk and slaughter waste, this contributes to the securing or protein concentrates.

The development of intensive cattle-breeding is also in its own way a part of our anti-import policy. For example, for the production of 10 quintals of pigs for slaughter we need 37 quintals of hard fodder, and out of this about 5 quintals of protein components, which at the moment we are largely importing from the capitalist countries, namely 73 percent. The cattle make it possible for us also to achieve a more advantageous circulation of feeding matter, and a correct utilization of waste manure significantly affects the fertility of the land. It is obvious that we must deal far more consistently with solving this question. We are not without experience nor without a comparatively strong base which will make this possible for us. Cattle-breeding and the prerequisites for its development are an indivisible part in solving the cereals problem. This matter is still often understood in rather simplistic terms and not in the necessary context. The cereals question cannot be narrowed down only to a higher production of cereals.

In its entirety, the mastering of the cereals problem comes down to a number of tasks starting with the production of grain and ending with the utilization of stable manure. Also relevant are such points as the structure of the arable acreage, the proportion in the types of cereals, and their harvest and storage without loss. However, also relevant are the growth of the production of bulk fodder, above all perennial fodder and root plants; the utilization of meadows and pasture, the production of protein components, and rational feeding. Without taking into account all these aspects and their consequences, it would be very difficult for us to achieve the desired results, and in view of the fact that in agriculture we work with biological-material life, any onesidedness can only backfire. It is just this comprehensive approach to the solving of the cereals problem that was emphasized by the CPCZ Central Committee at its last session.

In the years 1976-78, the annual volume of fodder production grew--in comparison with the average of the Fifth 5-Year Plan--by about roughly 800,000 tons; that is, by 8.4 percent. If we take into account the bad year of 1976, then these results are truly striking. A substantial contribution to this was made by effective brands of Soviet wheat which were shipped to us by Soviet grain specialists and kolkhozes.

In this context, it is necessary to praise the high yields achieved in the sever[illegible]s by the unified agricultural cooperatives and state farms, above all in some districts of the West Slovak, South Moravian, East Bohemian and North Moravian regions. The results of some agricultural enterprises

in other districts in other regions where the conditions are not so advantageous for the production of cereals also deserve appreciation.

Despite this, comrades, we must not slacken in the efforts to further raise grain output. In view of other demands on crop production and in view of the principles of the correct rotation of crops, it is no longer possible to envisage any further expansion of the area for grain crops. We can therefore proceed only along the course of raising hectare yields. Last year we achieved more than 40 metric quintals per hectare, and we regard it as a realistic target to move in the course of the next decade to the point of 50 metric quintals.

We see a weak spot and thereby an important potential in the uneconomical use of grains, above all in livestock production. Here we use more than two-thirds of the grains produced as feedstock. If we examine from this viewpoint the present structure of the area under grain, it shows that we will have to adjust it gradually and more suitably both to the needs of optimum rotation of crops and the demands on their quality and biological value. A suitable way of achieving this may lie in the substantial expansion of high-yield and resistance-proof strains of winter barley, as well as of oats, both for grain and silage. This consideration springs from the prerequisite that an expansion of the area under barley to the detriment of wheat will make it possible to stagger better work at the peak of harvesting and to thereby better utilize the existing harvesting equipment, not to mention the fact that accelerating the harvest by a fortnight will make it possible to increase the share of intercrops and the sowing, in good time, of rape after cereals.

In keeping with the planning concept, we shall also support growing maize, in view of its role in feed mixtures. To this end, it is necessary to have at our disposal seeds for sowing hybrids. However, we envisage that we shall grow maize only in those areas where there is the greatest guarantee that its yields will be substantially higher than in other types of cereals.

We want to proceed likewise with regard to cereals destined for human consumption, and this also applies to malt barley. Here the urgent demand is that of raising quality in view of the fact that there has been a distinct deterioration in this respect during the past few years. Since the experiences of many agricultural enterprises confirm the necessity of growing them in the most suitable areas and observing the necessary principles of agricultural technique and harvesting, the appropriate ministries and agricultural administrations must adapt to this end detailing plans of economic enterprises and the manner of procurement and storage.

Over the past 20 years we have built a powerful feedstuff industry with a capacity of 7 and 1/2 million tons of feed mixtures. This is one of the important paths in the rational utilization of all kinds of grains in livestock production. Nevertheless, there are still many justifiable complaints leveled against the effectiveness and quality of feed mixtures. I do not wish to defend the feedstuff industry. We often encounter shoddy processing, overly coarse milling and the violation of the optimal structure as prescribed by an approved formula. In this respect, the relevant manufacturing plants producing feed mixtures must take corrective action.

But where do the main causes for the insufficient quality of the feed mixtures lie? The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and the government have already adopted a measure regarding the production of proteins and other components from our own resources. The fulfillment of these measures so far has been very far from satisfactory, both within the agricultural and food complex and in other branches. We must not forget that we still import around 500,000 tons of oilseed meal and 40,000 tons of livestock powders from the capitalist states, and this at a substantially higher price than that which existed at the beginning of the seventies.

Therefore, we require the ministries of agriculture and food and also other responsible bodies to correct this situation. Above all, it is necessary to increase the volume, and in particular to improve the composition of the grown brands of leguminous plants, together with their more purposeful location and, while observing the correct technology of large-scale production, harvesting, and the most advantageous ways of usage, this can significantly contribute to securing a sufficient volume of proteins. The point is that new brands of beans and peas--when the correct growing methods are used--are able to give a yield of 30-40 quintals of beans per hectare, or twice as much of quality fodder. We expect a much greater contribution from the cellulose-paper, chemical, food and pharmaceutical industries.

In the course of the Seventh 5-Year Plan we intend to build plants for the production of 34,000-37,000 tons of fodder yeast and together with this to secure an annual production of at least 60,000 tons of fodder phosphates. We are also anticipating that the Ministry of Health will gradually take full responsibility for covering the needs of specifically effective substances with which we want to enrich the fodder of farm animals. This year about 3,500 tons and in 1980 about 4,000 of lysine, and in the Seventh 5-Year Plan we will start the construction of a new plant for the production of a further 4,000 tons annually. Therefore, both in the agricultural enterprises and our industry we must create prerequisites for having sufficient volumes of proteins, vitamins and other components, which constitute the basis of this quality and effectiveness of fodder mixtures. Without these, intensive and modern animal production cannot exist.

A key part in solving the cereals problem is the intensification of producing bulk fodder. So far we have had to substitute this uneconomically with cereals, owing to their insufficient production and low quality. For example, in the Fifth 5-Year Plan--in comparison with the Fourth 5-Year Plan--we expanded cattle-breeding, that is meat and milk, by 18 percent, but bulk-fodder production was increased by only 8 percent. It is therefore clear that we had to substitute hard fodder. In connection with this, and also as a result of failing to achieve the planned harvests in 1976-77, we were forced to buy in the capitalist markets in the first 3 years of the Sixth 5-Year Plan 2.3 million tons of cereals--and this, naturally, at times of rising prices.

The total annual imports of cereals has remained at basically the same levels as they were in the Fifth 5-Year Plan. Yet we have considerable potential in the structure and intensity of the production of forage crops

and root plants for fodder, and in the losses suffered during their harvest, processing and consumption. The point is that we grow forage crops and root plants for fodder on almost 29 percent of arable land, and this is naturally quite a lot. Therefore it is high time we paid attention to the production of farm fodder and much more energetically, and to the entire spectrum of these.

We must with more determination intensify above all the cultivation of perennial fodder plants which insure almost 40 percent of farm fodder and whose production capacity so far utilized in our country is only 50 percent. Starting with the Osevy and Slovosivo organizations and with the specialized agricultural enterprises, we require a sufficient quantity of quality seed from specialized agricultural enterprises in order to extend the acreage under clover, lucerne and lucerne-grass mixture from the present 780,000 hectares to 900,000 hectares in less than the next 3 years. Out of this, clover should amount to at least one-third of the acreage. It is natural that this extension must be carried out at the expense of other fodder plants, and together with this measure it is necessary to implement new methods of starting cultures of perennial fodders--methods that have been tested in practice--in the interest of their greater sturdiness and a substantial increase in yields per hectare.

We must all create conditions at every level and find ways of more consistently promoting trends toward more intensified farming on grasslands and pastures. By their size, 1.7 million hectares, they represent around 25 percent of farmland. Their contribution to fodder base is, however, very low since in regard to nutrients they represent a mere 12 percent of overall consumption. At first sight, it is apparent that this is very little and it also shows how little care and attention many cooperatives and state farms, as well as their superior directing bodies devote to this question. The question of raising the intensity of farming on grasslands and pastures will have to be resolved comprehensively and with all the thoroughness and responsibility that is required. A great many things have been neglected here for a long time and this requires a great deal of effort and investment. In utilizing this great source of the fodder base, plans must play their role by setting up yearly targets in the recultivation and the renewal of grasslands and pastures and by allocating for this very purpose both material and financial means.

In the interest of raising the energy component and increasing the quality of feedstuff rations to cattle, especially in the potato-growing areas, it will be desirable to gradually expand the large-scale growing of root crops for fodder to the extent of between 150,000 and 160,000 hectares. Older farmers will surely confirm how important this is for raising the usefulness of cattle-rearing. The fulfillment of this program will mean increasing the sources of feedstuffs, equivalent to between 700,000 and 800,000 tons of barley. This, however, requires a comprehensive solution and in particular mechanical equipment in the necessary structure, and this to an overall cost of approximately kcs 300 million, as well as the corresponding intensification of fertilizer application.

Another source of expanding the fodder base is with intervening crops, which account in our country for less than 5 percent of farmland, which is clearly not enough; we must expand their cultivation to between 10 to 12 percent of farmland, while at the same time altering their structure as to their kind and variety in favor of 1-year sowings and root crops. This will make it possible to extend the period of green fodder in spring by 1 week, and in winter by between a fortnight and 21 days and thus to increase the production of bulk fodder by at least another 800,000 tons equivalent of hay. And, after all, this will not be a small contribution.

It is also necessary to make better use than hitherto of the productive effect of nutrients in bulk fodder. Under the existing organization and the given system of fodders, we are losing from their value 10, and in some instances up to 40 percent, and these losses are far too large for us to tolerate any longer.

One way of improving the situation in this respect is by central preparations of fodders which will make possible their suitable adjustment and distribution, as well as a transition to a rational management of cattle-feeding. We believe that the present size of individual unified agricultural cooperatives and state farms makes this fully feasible, despite the fact that they are still too much split. Only by the consistent realization of the aforementioned directions for the development of the fodder base shall we be capable of accelerating the reproduction of cattle, intensifying the regeneration of the herd and insuring necessary growth of their yield.

In the Seventh 5-Year Plan we ought to achieve the rate of rearing of at least 100 calves per 100 cows. By expanding the reproduction base, conditions will be created for specialization in the rearing of cows by dividing them with the view of on the one hand increasing their yield within the basic herd as dairy cows, while on the other hand by creating a specialized herd of cows aimed at meat production. Together with this we must orient ourselves toward a comprehensive intensification of rearing young cattle. By applying appropriate technologies and by introducing special industrially produced fodder mixtures and augmenting this with raw sugar, it is possible to achieve, in the case of calves and within 6 months a more than 75-dekagram daily increase in weight. In the case of the fodder base and the systems of feeding, it is necessary to create conditions to substantially increase a daily growth in weight so as to achieve in the case of heifers between 60 and 70 dekagrams, and in feeding the cattle between 80 dekagrams and 1 kilogram in weight. Increasing the weight growth in the case of young cattle is a basic condition for speeding up the regeneration of the herd which is so urgently required, especially at the present time.

Therefore, we must base the intensive production of cattle for slaughter and milk on the rational feeding of all categories. To achieve this end, it is necessary to create in the agricultural enterprises--in close cooperation with the agricultural directorates and research laboratoies--prerequisites for a constant analysis of fodder, and to determine feeding portions according to the established contents of the basis nutrients and with reference to the utility-volume achieved. If we observe these comprehensive measures, it should be realistic to achieve in the course of the Seventh 5-Year Plan on the all-state average an annual milk-production result of at least (?4,300) liters.

There is one thing we cannot carry on watching without taking action; which also was the subject of criticism at the conference of the unified agricultural cooperatives; comrades, this is the question of the planning and management of the regeneration of herds in the all-state context and irrespective of the district and regional boundaries. There are a number of regions where we breed cattle with a lower production capacity, while elsewhere we put quality heifers in the slaughterhouse. At the same time we fail to utilize the great possibilities provided by the organized cooperation between lowland and hilly areas in the breeding of heifers. The ministries and agricultural directorates must create the necessary scope for detailing the plan for these purposeful transfers and through the medium of the breeding organizations which have the necessary apparatus, such transfers must be consistently safeguarded. The prepared amendment of the economic measures will actively support this process.

With the anticipated significant raising of the production of beef, the production of pigs must in the long-term contribute by about 47-48 percent to the total production of animals for slaughter. In recent years, a lot has been done to transform this branch into an industrial form of production. A number of large-scale feeding enterprises and joint agricultural enterprises are achieving good results. Their daily increases are over 60 dekagrams, with 3.5 kilograms consumption of hard fodder per 1 kilogram increase, and on top of that with the minimum of human labor. This shows us convincingly where to look for potential and which course to take toward the intensification of the breeding of pigs. Naturally, we cannot afford to build such enterprises everywhere and overnight. Therefore, we must continue to utilize suitable stable capacities. The important thing is that at the specialized branches of large-scale feeding enterprises we should complete their breeding and rearing basis. In production breeds we must organize the breeding in such a way that the calves are produced evenly throughout the year and the feeding enterprises receive only healthy material suitable for production. This will avoid unnecessary losses in the progress of feeding. At the same time we should endeavor to insure that the proportion of quality pigs for meat in the course of the Sixth 5-Year Plan reaches more than 50 percent; and by 1985 as much as 80 percent out of the total volume of procurement. The new system of evaluation of the pigs procured is also proving itself, since it prevents big losses and leads toward a higher output of meat.

The attention we pay to the production of meat and milk is a result not only of the growing demands. We cannot forget one more thing--the declining consumption of home-grown products. In the past 10 years, the volume of homeproduced meat and milk has halved. While in 1970 homegrown pigs contributed by as much as one quarter to the total production of pigs for slaughter, now it is only one-tenth. There is a similar situation with poultry. As regards milk, more production now amounts to only 3.5 percent, whereas 10 years ago it was nearly 10 percent out of the total production. This is the result of the ever-declining number of cows privately owned by members of the cooperatives and other smallholders.

An excessive decline of homeproduced products for food consumption does not, on the whole, help us. Therefore, in the interests of the whole society it is necessary to support this form--both as regards private consumption and for market production. The measures which have been adopted in this regard must be further developed.

We must--above all from the point of view of trade-political interests--place in the forefront the raising of self-sufficiency in oil-plants. Despite the fast growth of the domestic production of rape, which increased in the ifth 5-Year Plan by comparison with the previous period by almost 56 percent, our consumption of plant oils and fats is still dependent by 50 percent on the imports of the very much dearer raw materials and finished products. At the same time, we have real prerequisites to substantially increase the production of rape and also to switch toward quality brands which produce high-quality oils. It is our intention to cut imports of oil seeds by as much as 80 percent. Therefore, we want to broaden the cultivation of rape by the end of the next 5-year plan to at least 90,000 hectares. Out of this, the absolute majority of brands must have a low content of erusic acid.

The state of growing sugar beets for industry is absolutely unsatisfactory. For years we have been failing to achieve the planned yields per hectare. While in countries with comparable natural conditions the average yield per hectare over 10 years amounts to 450 quintals, we achieve less than 350 quintals. The sugar content has declined from the former 17 percent to about 14-15 percent. While in such districts as Kromeriz, Prostejov and Prerov, yields per hectare over a longer period approach 400 quintals, in some sugar-beet districts we do not even reach 300 quintals. This shows that the agricultural enterprises in these districts do not observe the basic schedules and technological discipline.

On top of that it is necessary to add considerable harvest losses. Can we really tolerate the situation we experienced last year, when 30-50 quintals of tubers were left on the field in some agricultural enterprises? Therefore, we face a question: What are the standards of work of the harvest teams, and--naturally--of the harvesting machines? What are the standards of the checks on the work underway? It is clear in all respects that the production of sugar beets in our country is one of the weakest links of our agriculture. We deem it necessary that the yardstick for the intensity of growing sugar beets is seen in the production of sugar form one hectare. To achieve this it is necessary to secure the best suitable seed, to adjust agricultural schedules, and to gradually progress toward production based on sugar contents. We must not forget that this is an important item on our exports, and also remember the necessity to utilize the by-products for fodder. At the same time we must solve the questions of processing sugar beets. We already feel now--and it has serious economic consequences--an inadequacy of the processing plants as well as their obsolete nature and low concentration of production. During the current stage of work on the Seventh 5-Year Plan, we are assessing some questions as to how to reconstruct and modernize as quickly as possible the existing plants. When assessing new products for sugar refineries, we must of course take into consideration the real possibilities for investment development as projects into the eighties through our work on the Seventh 5-Year Plan.

As far as potatoes are concerned there also are no grounds for satisfaction. On a 10-year state average we are achieving nearly 160 metric quintals, and in Slovakia a mere 125 metric quintals; on top of this we have marked annual and regional variations. Other countries with conditions similar to ours manage to produce 40 to 50 metric quintals more per hectare than we do. If we exclude the considerable losses in the harvesting of potatoes, further losses in potato storage and packaging amount to 40 to 60 percent.

From all this it is clear that it is necessary to stabilize the yield on an all-state level of about 200 metric quintals per hectare, and, on top of this, enterprises producing seed potatoes and cultivating new kinds must insure sufficieat high-quality seed potatoes and organize speedy transportation between regions and the two republics.

Agricultural enterprises then must pay considerably more attention to agricultural technology, the level of which at present is completely inadequate to date in some areas. In the interests of more economic utilization, it is necessary that the producers together with the purchasing and sales organizations purposefully insure the construction of storage facilities and plants for the processing and sales preparation of potatoes.

The ministries of agriculture will, in the most important potato regions, gradually organize the construction of three to four enterprises for the comprehensive processing of potatoes by a method which excludes any waste and each with a capacity of 100,000 tons. This will make it possible not only to fully meet demand, but also to reduce the land devoted to potato cultivation by 10 to 15 percent compared with today.

Another bottleneck in our agriculture is the existing low level of fruit and vegetable production. It is a matter which has been the subject of justified criticism for a number of years. True, for the past 10 years market production of vegetables has increased by nearly one-third and that of fruit by 15 percent. Despite this, in both instances the consumption per inhabitant is over 20 kilograms less than what would be in accordance with (?the principles of health).

You know that we have taken a number of measures in this direction. But they are being realized most hesitatingly and not in a comprehensive manner. Very little to date has been done to expand production and the smooth purchasing of these products and in order to reduce the time it takes to transport from producer to consumer. The producers, purchasing organizations and many agricultural managements and service organizations do not adopt a truly responsible attitude toward these tasks. Otherwise it surely would not be possible for some kinds of vegetables not to be fully purchased, as was the case last year with cabbages, tomatoes, carrots, apples and other produce. And they were certainly not small amounts, which, in an uneconomic way, were used for fodder, although in a number of places in the republic they were in short supply.

We therefore stress that we must again deal with these questions at the central level, and thus gradually remove the obstacles which are preventing more rapid progress in this sphere. Experiences so far indicate that it is necessary to continue with the concentration of this production, for which a joint enterprise of producers and processing and distribution enterprises is the most suitable form. We are aware that the production of fruits and vegetables needs especially suitable means of mechanization and that the production of these means takes place in small series in the main, that this is a task with which selected state tractor stations are entrusted, as well as repair installations for agricultural machinery.

Our participation in the international association of producers of such machinery--Agromat--in which some CEMA countries take part, creates the opportunity for the supply of a wide range of machinery, the production of which is specialized in individual countries.

And when we stress the necessity to expand the large-scale production of vegetables and fruit, then we must not ignore the importance of their production by small-scale growers, of whom many have achieved remarkable results. The share of privately grown produce in consumption is not negligible; it accounts for more than one-third of overall consumption. It is of course necessary to state that here, too, there has been a distinct decline, for 10 years ago this share accounted for more than one-half.

With regard to vegetables and fruit and certain small-volume agricultural produce, we regard the production by small-scale growers as an important additional source and shall continue to fully support it. Ministries of agriculture and food must pay greater attention to these intentions, which concern the processing of vegetables and fruit, including nonstandard kinds.

Last year's harvest once again revealed serious shortcomings in the fulfillment of the said task. The preserving industry must develop greater initiative in this respect. Since the existing capacities do not make it possible to process the entire production effectively, it is necessary, in addition to building new plants, to direct attention to their purposeful reconstruction and modernization as well as to the introduction of new technologies which are today normally employed in the world and which make it possible to process raw materials within a more extensive period of time.

Comrade delegates, we see the basic factor in the growth of both crop and livestock production in increasing yields and in the effective utilization of the entire area of farmland. There still exists a state of affairs in certain enterprises where there are thousands of hectares which are lying fallow or are underutilized. Controlling bodies talk of a figure of 63,000 hectares of land which is temporarily not being farmed.

I am sure you know what we have in mind. They are pieces of land which, so it is claimed, are not worthwhile to farm: They give substantially lower yields than average; and the like. True, among them I am sure are devastated grasslands and pastures, small-size plots and various enclaves, but still it is land for whose utilization we must continually strive. And if some small-size pieces of land cannot be utilized for large-scale production--and this must be examined very objectively--agricultural enterprises together with national committees ought to find a suitable way of farming on them, including allocating them for use by small-scale growers and breeders.

In 1976 the Federal Assembly passed a law on the protection of the area of farmland. The importance of this issue is borne out by the fact that since 1970, 127,000 hectares of farmland have disappeared, out of which almost 30 percent was taken over for the needs of capital investment. In Czechoslovakia today there are only 4,600 square meters of agricultural

land and less than 3,300 square meters of arable land per capita. There are forecasts that in 1990, if this trend continues, the figure will be a mere 4,200 square meters of agricultural land and roughly 3,000 square meters of arable land. Naturally, we cannot stand idly by at such a development. Ministries of agriculture, together with national committees, which have a great deal of power and responsibility in this area, must make better use of this good law and permit the release of farmland only in the most necessary instances. The issue is not merely taking over farmland for capital investment; it may also concern, for instance, taking over land which is being transferred to other branches, and there exists a great deal of latitude in this regard. Always, however, it is necessary to apply with full effectiveness economic sanctions provided for by the law on the protection of farmland, and it should be applied to both small and large enterprises engaged in capital construction. In this respect there is a great deal of protectionism, unjustifiable exceptions, and both the national committees and ministries and in particular the financial bodies must resolutely end such practices.

The current stage of concentration and implementation of progressive large-scale production technologies and the use of effective technology of the second and third generation puts qualitatively new demands on the arrangement of the land fund, on its registration, on the comprehensive economic-technological amendments to the land, and on the suitable adjustments of the road network. A consistent and planned solution of this task is determined by the processing of aggregative projects which must be mastered in the forthcoming years.

The organization of the water system, followed by purposeful amelioration and recultivation measures, continues to play an important role in the improvement and utilization of land. While on the one hand we still have 630,000 hectares of waterlogged land, on the other--on the basis of a relevant inquiry--almost 1 million hectares of high-yield soils need irrigation. Therefore we deem it urgent to speed up the process of ameliorations in the next 5-year plan and drain water from at least 290,000 hectares. At the same time we must build irrigation systems over an area of at least 160,000 hectares, where priority is to be given to hop fields, vineyards, orchards and vegetable-growing enterprises. In this connection, it is necessary to point out critically those cases where expensive irrigation systems built in agricultural enterprises are not utilized--either not at all or only partly. The cost of 1 hectare of an irrigated area amounts to at least kcs18,000. The relevant agricultural enterprises, with the help of suppliers, must take such measures so that these very expensive investments bring the optimum results everywhere.

Chemistry has an exceptional place in our endeavors to increase land fertility, and above all the application and use of industrial fertilizers. These fertilizers make a contribution of almost 40 percent to the entire increase of yields and are therefore decisive in the system of production factors--together with agricultural technology and seed breeding. Now we use 244 kilograms of pure nutrients per single hectare of agricultural land; therefore we belong to countries with high standards of utilization of industrial fertilizers. In the course of the next 6 years we will endeavor

to increase this amount by about one-quarter and thus achieve 300 kilograms of pure nutrients per single hectare. We are creating for this the appropriate prerequisites, both in our own chemical industry and also in cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community. We will put emphasis not only on quantity as such, but also on the quality and above all the composition of the industrial fertilizers supplied.

The demands for an increase of the concentration of nutrients and for broadening the proportion of granulated and liquid fertilizers is considered by us to be justified, and our chemical industry must take seriously these demands and rapidly master them. Although their proportion is rising annually, nonetheless the supplies of calcium-based materials lag behind the planned quantities; here builders and foundrymen still owe much. Naturally, we are not only talking about industrial fertilizers but also about other chemicals for agriculture, conservation agents and biofactors, which are needed by our agriculture--and the structure and volume of which is still insufficient. A part of these needs is answered by imports from the capitalist countries.

We import kcs500 million worth of agrochemicals annually. And this year, in view of constant price rises in this sphere, we shall spend up to 650 million on these imports. On the basis of the latest session of the Central Committee, we are investigating possibilities of increasing domestic output of these for the protection of plants. Therefore we are making efforts to speed up the construction of the "Agro-II" chemical works, and are starting the construction of another works in the Seventh 5-Year Plan.

Of course we cannot produce everything ourselves. It is all the more necessary, therefore, that we strive for an expansion of cooperation within the framework of the CEMA countries, whose interests in this sphere also coincide with ours. Research and production must more extensively evaluate the economic effects achieved by increased quantities of industrial fertilizer being applied to individual crops since, for example, regarding industrial sugar beet and fodder crops, in spite of a constant increase in quantities of industrial fertilizers a corresponding increase in yields per hectare is not being achieved. We must find out the causes so that we can react correctly, so that we will know to what extent it is a matter of agrotechnical influences, of different strains, of the content of humus in soil, the water regime, chemical protection and fertilizers. Today we know the negative effects of the application of incorrect quantities of nitrogen fertilizers to malt barley. However, we also need this knowledge urgently regarding other crops so that growing yields do not become a short-term phenomenon.

As far back as the October 1975 Central Committee session, the importance of scientifically controlled feeding and protection of plants was stressed, the aims which we aspire to in this sphere outlined, and the role of agrochemical enterprises and laboratories was emphasized. At present there are 107 of these. Their contribution to work in the sphere of the feeding of plants, however, is still low. It is necessary to continue their development with the aim of enabling them to cater to the entire state territory

in the Seventh and Eighth 5-Year Plans. In this the urgent need arises for the agrochemical enterprises to gradually assume coresponsibility--and I stress coresponsibility--for the management of farm manure and its utilization, since the development of yields per hectare is ever more markedly influenced by mutual combinations of organic and industrial fertilizers. In the process of the systematic enhancement of soil fertility, farm manure is irreplaceable. However, recent investigations unfortunately show that over the past few years this has been greatly neglected in some agricultural enterprises. On the one hand, expensive industrial fertilizer is demanded, and on the other what we have at our disposal at home is used carelessly. In some cooperatives and state farms up to one-half of the nutrient of the organic substance is lost, and regarding nitrogen it rises to three-quarters. That is not evidence of good management. A reduction in the cited losses by one-quarter, which is realizable, would produce in crop production an effect to the value of more than 1 million tons of grain units. Apart from traditional methods of protecting these valuable nutrients, we see a decisive solution in the setting up of large-capacity depots for farm manure which would make it possible to apply mass production technology in its handling and treatment. This is a matter of rapidly repayable investments, and ways and means for this purpose should be found at agricultural enterprises. The ministries of agriculture must speed up the drafting of a concrete program of action for the realization of these measures.

Comrade delegates! In the debate prior to the Ninth Congress, issues of the expansion and modernization of the production-technical base of agriculture featured prominently. The recent session of the party's Central Committee also proceeded from this when it stressed the obligations of all supply industries in this sphere.

The delivered technology, machinery and equipment must be of a high technical standard, must have a long service life and be reliable, since only then can it produce the desired effects both in the mechanization of agricultural work and in the substitution of a live labor force.

In the current situation we have basically solved the mechanization of harvest work regarding grain, and partially also the harvest of industrial sguar beets. However,this is certainly not the case with fodder crops where the degree of mechanization of the harvest constitutes 70 percent. In particular, there is a shortage of machinery for plots situated on slopes. Regarding potatoes, the situation is particularly bad, with only 65 percent of mechanization. So far mechanization in the growing and picking of fruit and vegetables is quite negligible.

On the whole, it must be said that agriculture needs comprehensive technological complexes which could take care of the whole process from soil preparation to the harvest. Over the first 3 years of the current 5-year plan, our agriculture has been supplied with machinery worth more than kcs12.5 billion. Our engineering industry has contributed to this by exceeding its targets with regard to some types of machines. However, regarding a considerable number of items, it also ran up a debt. Agricultural enterprises also did not get much machinery which was to be

imported. The structure of the needs in agricultural technology is wide and varied. It comprises over 900 various types of machinery and equipment. The widespread cooperation and specialization unfurled within the framework of CEMA in this sphere must be better mastered, both by our engineering industry--that is above all our responsibility--but also by foreign suppliers. And that should manifest itself in the fulfillment of orders in the agreed quantities and range of machinery as embodied in the annual trade protocols.

Our agriculture urgently needs tow equipment for big-capacity tractors and loaders with a higher performance, sowing machinery in general, potato diggers for heavy and stony soils, planters for pregerminated potatoes and for normal planting, machines for picking up stones, and equipment for the cultivation and harvesting of meadows and pastures, in particular for bigger slopes.

Understandably, relevant engineering enterprises and other organizations must continue to improve service facilities and the whole complex of repair work.

The situation is more favorable in the mechanization of animal farming where an improvement has occurred the past year in the deliveries of milking plants for new projects. Similar progress, however, must also be achieved as regards equipment for reconstructed and modernized dairy projects and in particular also in the mechanization of feeding and the removal of farm manure.

The growth of agricultural production and the development of mass production forms of farming make unprecedented demands on agricultural transport and the manipulation of all kinds of materials. In light of the conclusions of the latest session of the party's Central Committee we expect a turning point to take place here in the next 5-year period; we expect the delivery to agriculture of some 10,000 special-purpose trucks with a capacity of 8 tons including a corresponding number of loaders. This is an effective, comprehensively effective investment which must be consistently realized.

However, it is also necessary even now to think about and create preconditions for long-term solutions which we shall have to find in the coming decades. It is obvious that demands will be for a higher capacity of individual units of machinery and production lines, both by traditional means--for example by increasing the scope, the running speed and reduction of losses--as well as by new means--in particular automation and the completion of the comprehensive mechanization of a number of production operations.

In this context it is necessary to envisage a departure from universal tractors to self-propelled machines and special-purpose trucks. We must proceed from the fact that development will take the course of a system of unified-design means of propulsion from which, in conjunction with the working machine, it will be possible to assemble various mechanized complexes.

Regarding harvesting machinery, it will be desirable to widen the swathe and step up performance. Likewise, it is obvious that the introduction of new machinery with a higher performance will demand perfected methods of organizations of its utilization.

In this context, permit me to address a few words to management workers in our agricultural enterprises. What I have in mind is all-embracing thrift, in particular in the utilization of machines and equipment, but also in the consumption of fuel and electricity, and finally efficient use of overall investment means in this sphere. We consider it quite right that this issue was a frequent subject in the precongress debate. Now it is the turn for practical conclusions and practical measures to make amends in this direction. This concerns above all the better utilization of existing and newly supplied machinery. The differences which exist as to its utilization in individual enterprises are considerable. They are evidence of a low standard of organization of labor. This manifests itself in particular as regards modern and more complex highperformance mechanisms such as harvesting cutters [skliceci rezakcka], combines for harvesting potatoes, sugar beet, and a number of others.

Can we put up with the low level of utilization of heavy machinery such as the T-180 and K-700 tractors and machines of agricultural construction enterprises used in land improvement? In the state as a whole excavators and bulldozers, for example, are used approximately to 65 percent of capacity, and furrow-cutters [ryhovac] to less than 50 percent. Comrades, I believe comment is superfluous.

In many agricultural enterprises there is a low standard concerning the basic care and maintenance of machinery and equipment. The consequences are evident: a high breakdown rate, a short service-life and unnecessary expense. Yes, it is true, this is partly due also to the current unsatisfactory standard of repair work, including the shortage of spare parts, the development of which is lagging behind the growth in the technical equipment of agricultural enterprises, although some progress, albeit insufficient, has been made in this direction. However, comrades, not everything can be blamed on this. Everybody must put his own house in order.

There are still complaints about shortages of agricultural implements and other small-scale requisites. The situation really is not good. Without these matters being properly discussed as they should be by the relevant authorities, production is shifted from one enterprise to the next, from one locality to the next, until it stops completely somewhere. And then there are no forks, mattocks, spades and implements of the most varied kind to be had.

Competent ministers, general and enterprise directors, directors of regional and district agricultural administrations--insofar as this concerns to a considerable degree allied production in cooperatives--are well aware of the actual state of affairs, and we shall check how speedily they rectify it.

Purposefulness and thriftiness must also be applied more thoroughly to investment construction. Its progress over the first 3 years has been quite uneven. Over this period we have built, inter alia, facilities for 200,000 heads of cattle, including 61,000 cows, and for 216,000 pigs. Nevertheless the reconstruction of cattle capacities is not proceeding at the desired rate. Among the decisive projects, the construction of big-capacity grain storage facilities, of agrochemical enterprise warehouses and small water reservoirs is lagging behind in particular.

We must tackle more energetically above all the construction of drainage where the target of 300,000 hectares has been fulfilled over the past 3 years to just over one-half.

The pace of reconstruction of the material-technical base of agriculture is closely linked with the possibilities of the national economy. In practice, this means that a sober path must be followed, a path of most purposeful utilization of the means available to our agriculture. The state of work in drafting the Seventh 5-Year Plan does not make it possible for us today to quote an exact figure regarding allocations for investment in agriculture. However, we do not envisage their share in the overall volume of investment in the national economy falling below the level of the Sixth 5-Year Plan. Their direction is basically clear: First, it will be a matter of additions to the soil to increase its fertility; second, a comprehensive solution for the fodder base, the development of cattle-breeding, and increased production of fruits and vegetables.

Under the given aims of investment construction we must make use of a much wider scale of possibilities for modernization and reconstruction of suitable projects, make use mainly of repeatable projects and build inexpensive types of buildings. This will be to the benefit of the cooperative as well as society and will produce more value for both sides.

The latest session of the party's Central Committee also discussed the results of the work of the scientific-research base in relation to agriculture and defined the main trends for its activity. I do not want to, and there is no need to, dwell on these questions in detail. The government and the other management organs will, within the range of these conclusions, work to increase the work efficiency of the scientific-research base so as to concentrate efforts on the main, decisive tasks. Agricultural practice needs in particular a comprehensive solution for optimum utilization of the bioenergetic potential of soil and its protection, a rational organization of the fodder base and the solution of the protein problem. It needs biologically effective seed materials and a comprehensive solution for the intensification of cattle-breeding. The efforts of the most outstanding scientists and research workers and interdepartmental teams must be concentrated on these problems, and the necessary conditions created for them. At the same time they must be pressured to put forward proposals and concrete solutions applicable in practice within periods generally accepted in the world and which we have so far failed to meet.

Agriculture as a controlled biological process needs and demands from agricultural science and research new impulses. What is called for is that scientists and research workers equip agricultural practice for further progress and new successes with thoroughly worked out and tested methods and good time. Since the eighth congress of unified agricultural cooperatives, we have considerably advanced in the concentration and specialization of agricultural production. In our opinion the first steps taken toward the expansion of integration between agriculture and the processing industry have been successful. Since 1970 the average acreage of unified agricultural cooperatives has almost quadrupled. This has created a new situation which demands that we now concentrate on the internal consolidation and stabilization of the new economic units so that we attain the aims pursued in the merger of unified agricultural cooperatives everywhere and as soon as possible; and that means the growth of the intensity and effectiveness of agricultural production.

It is indeed a fact that in some of the newly created large cooperatives good results are being achieved in this direction--at times, very good ones. They have a clear concept of their expansion, and the productive and economic contributions are satisfactory. But this is not yet a general phenonomenon. In a number of cooperatives the general structure of production continues to exist, but the organization and management do not correspond to the new conditions.

The management level of the new large entities so far has not produced the necessary economic advantages, and is now leading to the opposite--increasing unproductive costs. Also, other facts prove that this process has as yet not been fully mastered. In the given period it is therefore important--as was also emphasized by the last meeting of the party Central Committee--to move toward a gradual but purposeful strengthening of the new production units, including planned reconstruction, which has the purpose of gradually moving toward the creation of specialized interenterprise units and if need be, of specialized enterprises of the open kind.

For this reason we also consider it correct not to organize at present a further merging of cooperatives, and to change land holdings and the size of existing enterprises only under exceptional and absolutely necessary conditions. The process of strengthening and stabilizing the new economic units must manifest itself in the further expansion of interenterprise cooperative and integration relations. In the final analysis, joint agricultural enterprises and cooperative associations are now convincingly proving the economic advantages of this course. At the current time these joint cooperative enterprises' share in pig production for the market is 17 percent taken on the national average, in poultry it is 9 percent, and in egg production it is nearly 46 percent. In general they achieve good results in utilization and in the productivity of labor, as well as in being economical, especially in the consumption of fodder per unit year.

We therefore consider it essential that the cooperatives as well as the state farms continue in this cooperation and further extend their participation

in the expansion of these joint enterprises. But here it is a prerequisite that the mutual organizational-economic links mutually strengthen between them. Experience has shown that in a number of instances the cooperatives and state farms have little influence on the running of these joint enterprises, on decisionmaking, on the use of financial means, and on their further development generally. Respect for the principles on which the joint enterprises have been built must also apply to the district agricultural administrations, and then must rid themselves of those negative steps of which there are plenty against these joint economic entities.

With regard to the rapid continuation of scientific-technological progress and the expansion of productive forces connected with it, it has been shown that besides the expansion of cooperation within the framework of existing cooperative groupings, it is necessary to gradually further organize cooperative relations within the framework of wider territorial entities, within the framework of cooperative units of 20,000 to 30,000 hectares. They should be primarily directed toward coordinating the production orientation of member enterprises, solving the modern investment accumulation, toward the joint procurement and use of expensive means of mechanization, and also of computer technology.

The considerable reduction in the numbers of agricultural cooperatives makes it possible to expand cooperation and to make relations between agricultural and processing enterprises less complicated, as well as those with the trading organizations. So far we are here at the very beginning.

So far we have made most progress in the production of poultry and good, though isolated examples, can be cited in certain sectors of plant production. The organizational link of production, storage and industrial processing of fruit and vegetables and of other agricultural products which has been tackled in some districts, especially in the district of Dunajska Streda, shows convincingly with a qualified management the advantages of such a cooperative arrangement.

In organizing the concentration, specialization and interenterprise cooperation the state and economic organs must strictly respect the principles which insure the further successful expansion of this process.

We have here especially in mind the principle of voluntarism, the upholding of the economic independence of the unified agricultural cooperatives of state farms and other organizations, and the material interest of member enterprises in expanding production.

The very fact that the agricultural cooperatives today encompass not just one but several villages demands that we again consider how best and by what means we can insure the further expansion of the cooperatives' internal life, and especially the participation of the members of the cooperatives in decisionmaking on common affairs.

Practice has shown that in some instances the administration of cooperatives decides a number of important questions without the members of the cooperative.

The elected organs of the administration, the auditing commissions and the assemblies of deputies must always be close to the people, know their views; in short, they must fulfill the letter and spirit of cooperative relations. Every cooperative member must feel that he is not only informed about the current results and plans for the future but also that his voice is heeded and that he has a share in the decisionmaking.

The new tasks and the large production units also cast a different light on the questions of interenterprise organization, management and planning. There is a broad discussion going on about when and under what conditions to go over from a territorial to an enterprise organization and management. There is no general recipe for this. Decisive here are the concrete conditions, the level of the material-technological basis, the degree of concentration of individual production and activity, and last but not least, the level of the managerial cadres and the preparedness of the people.

However, in every instance it is important for us that the new organizational forms and methods of interenterprise planning create such prerequisites that the administration of the production processes is operative, flexible and effective and that it clearly outlines the extent and level of responsibility from top to bottom, from economic management right down to individual workers in production. This is also a prerequisite for fully applying the tenent of clarifying such questions as economizing, reducing costs and effectively utilizing material and financial potentials.

It is important that people at every place of work not only know their tasks but also how and under what economic conditions they are to be fulfilled. Only then will it be possible to effectively commit every member of the cooperative and work collective to the results of their work, to stimulate their initiative and their endeavor to manage properly with the means entrusted to them.

We decided at the last congress that it is necessary to thoroughly implement the principle of merit and incentive not only as regards volume, but also as far as the quality of work is concerned. For 4 years we have been assessing in agricultural cooperatives the unified system of remuneration. Results on the whole have been positive, and therefore we recommend to the ninth congress that it approve its introduction in all unified agricultural cooperatives by the end of the Sixth 5-Year Plan. This for all practical purposes will create the prerequisites for implementing the directives of the 15th CPCZ Congress to gradually establish remuneration for equal qualified work in agriculture which is fundamentally the same as in the other spheres of the national economy.

The speed with which we will implement all our plans for the expansion of agriculture and the way its industrial character will deepen depends to a large degree on all-round preparedness. Let us recall, comrade delegates, what the situation was like 7 years ago, during the days of the holding of the eighth congress of the unified agricultural cooperatives. Then, people left the cooperatives and agriculture altogether. In various places there was a serious shortage of workers. There was an especially great shortage

of young people. And what is the situation today? True, there is no need to idealize it. But since the eighth congress of the unified agricultural cooperatives a great change has taken place. Young people have come, also experts, the work collectives have stabilized to a considerable degree and fluctuation was reduced. In short, agriculture today is an attractive branch, and this is a great and positive change. This is a great success for the policy of the CPCZ.

Whereas in 1960 there was only one university student for each 1,000 permanently employed workers in a unified agricultural cooperative, last year the number was already over 13. The number of workers with full secondary education increased by over elevenfold. In the function of managers of plant and animal husbandry production there are 37 percent with secondary education and economists over 40 percent. It is right that the majority of agricultural enterprises pay attention to a healthy utilization and location of expertly qualified workers. The expert and political level of the workers, their active and creative attitude to work, is an effective method on the path of achieving better results and in overcoming the obstacles which life places in our path every day.

We highly assess the fact that just as in other sectors of our life, work initiative and competition has a broad basis also in agriculture. The brigades of socialist labor especially jointly endeavor to increase production, and on an ever greater basis they are linked by the principles of high quality and economizing. The initiative of the people is a valuable commodity which we highly esteem. Therefore it is necessary to also move in the direction of decisive tasks, and to create at the same time such conditions that these can manifest themselves fully and effectively.

An important role is played here by the Union of Cooperative Peasants, which, as has been shown by experience, has attained a number of good results, and not only in stimulating the work initiative of cooperative members but also in educational work and especially in caring for the cooperative member and his family. But in the next period it will be necessary for it to contribute more effectively toward the implementation of the party's economic policy, and also toward the expansion of the internal life of the cooperatives, toward the deepening of innercooperative democracy.

The successful development of the unified agricultural cooperatives also helps the all-round development of our village. As a result of the cooperative work between the cooperatives and the national committees with the organizations of the national front and with the other citizens we have hundreds of exemplary villages. It is a pleasure to look at them, to enjoy the way they are kept, their pleasant working and living environment.

This also shows how advantageous it is to unify the means for self-help actions, especially for the actions "z," to actively help the national committees in their efforts for the further beautification of the village. It is necessary to continue with this because much remains to be done in the village so that people can work and live there in a truly satisfying way.

The improvement of interenterprise management is closely linked with the overall system of planning and financing of agriculture. We must also adjust this to the new conditions. By this means it is also necessary to orient the work of agricultural enterprises toward the rapid growth of production, and especially toward the qualitative sides of the reproductive process. With the preparatory work which is going on at the present time, we aim to improve the creation of the plan at all management levels and its internal implementation and thus to bring about more effective control of its realization.

The plan must primarily exert active pressure on the removal of unjustified production and economic differences between the individual agricultural producer cooperatives. We are all aware of the weaknesses in supplier-consumer relations. Therefore we are planning work in the system to demarcate in a more precise way the management [gemscna] responsibility of branches and enterprises for the material-technological supply position and to strengthen the economic content of these relations and there, where it is suitable and possible, to gradually go over toward the conclusion of long-term contracts.

In this connection we want to examine the effectiveness of the application so far of investment limits for the purchase of machinery and plant to the cooperatives and state farms where a considerable amount of the practice so far is not efficient. The precongress debate also confirmed the need for an adjustment in the system of economic measures. In accord with the recent meeting of the party Central Committee, we are preparing measures which will lead to conspicuous support for the profitability of rearing cattle and milk production.

The considered increase in purchasing prices in this sphere is to form part of a whole complex of production and economic measures which we shall have to carry out in the production of beef and milk in order to achieve a marked improvement in this sector. Further, we want to promote a higher quality of agricultural produce and raw materials and better management of grain fodder by means of price differentiation and bonuses. Under preparation is also an arrangement for differential payments of real estate tax and other measures which will provide for better defrayments of necessary reproduction expenses in worse-off production spheres.

In accordance with the conclusions of the latest session of the party's Central Committee, a proposal is being prepared for the contribution of unified agricultural cooperatives for a partial reimbursement of the expenditure for social security to be brought up to the level which exists in the other branches of the national economy. At the same time a new, more advantageous method of calculation of old age and disability pensions for new pensioners, members of unified agricultural cooperatives will come into force. With this change the last difference between the level of pensions of cooperative farms and other workers in the national economy will be removed.

The work on the perfecting of economic measures is being conducted so that the new arrangement can come into force at the beginning of the new 5-year plan, while some adjustments in purchasing prices, as mentioned earlier, aimed at intensifying cattle-breeding and milk production are to come into force as early as the beginning of the coming year.

In the precongress debate there were many critical suggestions addressed to the ministries of agriculture and food, to agricultural administrations, both regional and district ones, and other organizations, including the scientific-research base. It is necessary to evaluate the changes which have occurred in our agriculture in recent years. We are convinced that the ministers, directors of production administrations, and of other organizations, including the whole collective of management sphere workers will draw concrete conclusions from the deliberations of the party Central Committee, as well as from the justified criticisms of cooperative farmers at meetings and conferences, and from the conclusions of this congress.

Comrades, esteemed friends! We live at a time of unprecedented discoveries in science and of revolutionary social changes. People have entered outer space and are developing great efforts to cope with the energy and food problem. An ever-increasing section of mankind is deciding on a new and socially more just social order. Socialism has become the most attractive goal for the peoples of the world. Awareness is growing generally that the only sensible alternative for the life of mankind is the policy of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, and a permanent detente both in the political and in the military sphere. The socialist states have of late introduced new peace proposals. They are contained in the declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact, and in the speech of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Our peoples have lived through the horror of both world wars. We are deeply interested in peaceful development not only on the old continent but also in other parts of the world. In accordance with the innermost interests of our people, we are actively cooperating with revolutionary, democratic, and peace-loving forces in an effort to contribute to the attainment of those great goals which our greatest friend and ally, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, is so successfully fighting for.

The visible successes of this path are reflected in the powerful support of the working people and of the progressive public of the whole world. This is of deep significance in particular in connection with a number of recent events which indicate that a peaceful development is not to the liking of all forces in the world. China's aggression against Vietnam and Laos, the betrayal of the basic interests of the Arab people together with further attempts of imperialist circles provide clear evidence of efforts to reverse the positive trend in international developments, to ignite new hotbeds of conflict, and again to lead the world into a period of uncertainty and cold war. We decisively oppose these reactionary forces, and we are determined to continue in the future to support those who are striving for national freedom and independence add who are struggling against all attempts by imperialist circles to turn back the wheel of historical development.

It is in keeping with the tradition of our peoples, with their deep sense of justice and right that we want to solve questions of social development in accordance with world progress which clearly resounds in favor of the cause of socialism and peace. Proof of this are also the deliberations of the ninth congress of unified agricultural cooperatives. And we are glad, comrade delegates, that this top assembly of Czechoslovak cooperative farmers is being attended by numerous foreign delegations, among them also the Soviet Union's delegation led by Comrade Gorbechev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Dear foreign friends, we greatly appreciate the participation of you all!

Comrade delegates, esteemed friends! We are proud of the fact that it was our country, our workers and farmers, whose experience from the process of historical transformation of agriculture helped to convincingly confirm the general validity of Lenin's cooperative plan. A graphic example of the correctness of this path is, in particular, the outstanding successes which we have achieved in the course of the past 10 years, after the new leadership of the CPCZ led by Comrade Gustav Husak, general secretary of the party and president of the CSSR, took over.

Cooperative farmers, our unified agricultural cooperatives have a considerable share in those successes. However, we are not complacent about our achievements. Our future work will proceed from the fact that our possibilities and the growing demands and needs of society are constantly growing. We must make more energetic efforts to improve management at all levels and to use new and more effective ways of utilizing all internal potentials. The order of the day, for agriculture too, is a consistent orientation on the qualitative aspects of production, since here too it is a matter of a considerably higher performance, intensification and effectiveness.

We are convinced that cooperative farmers will spare no effort in order to complete the remaining 2 years of the Sixth 5-Year Plan with the best possible results, thus helping to create a good basis for the further flourishing of our socialist society.

Allow me to express the firm conviction that proceeding along this reliable path, our socialist society and the Communist Party will have in you, in the numerous community of members of unified agricultural cooperatives, as always, a firm support, and that in future years too you will devote all your efforts and capabilities to the benfit of a contented and happy life for our people and for the benfit of a further flourishing of our dear homeland, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.